

FACT SHEET
AB 970 (Assembly Member Block):
Native Americans Instructional
Material

Summary:

AB 970 would encourage the State Board of Education and the Curriculum Commission to include a more thorough coverage of important issues affecting California Native Americans, including discussion of their tribal and sovereign governments and their relationship with California's state and local governments in the next adoption cycle for History-Social Science textbooks. It also requires the State Board to report to the Governor and Legislature regarding progress in meeting this goal. The bill is sponsored by the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.

Background:

We all know that California's Native American tribes and their sovereign governments play a vital role in the social, economic, and political fabric of our state. Yet, our social studies curriculum treats Native Americans as little more than a quaint, historical footnote. In fact, if you were to read the current History-Social Science Framework for elementary textbooks you would think there had not been Native Americans in California since the 1800's.

At the states recent History/Social Science textbook adoption there was no inclusion of any current events past the 1800's related to California Native Americans. Without mention of these events, the existence of Native Americans as a people, with sovereign governments, in student instruction or in student textbooks continues to be obsolete and students will continue to lack the understanding that California Native Americans are part of this state's cultural, political and historical and current events. This bill will help fill a significant gap in our social studies curriculum.

For More Information:

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